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## local NEWS

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# Many changes of mood on show

### Reviews

#### **Norwich Music Group** St Peter Mancroft, Norwich

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Light, joyful and melodious, Pergolesi's Magnificat was a fine choice for the opening of Saturday evening's concert by Philip Aldred's Norwich Music Group, with June Harrison, Veronica Grint, Andy Hobson and Simon Rumsey singing the short solo selections.

In a quite different style, the choir next performed the Five Spirituals from *A Child of Our Time*, Michael Tippett's powerful anti-fascist oratorio. Rhythms were strong, each section of the chorus took the opportunity to show its own vocal character, and the different sentiments of the text were given full expression.

Another change of mood came with a version of Corelli's Christmas Concerto. The small orchestra, led by Frances Banham, played it with delicacy, and the pastoral sections were a special pleasure. The arrangement incorporated the hymn *O Magnum Mysterium*. Sung quietly, as if at a distance, it was appropriate and very charming.

June Harrison set the more sombre tone of the second half of the programme with *When I am Laid in Earth*, from Purcell's opera *Dido and Aeneas*.

Then, with organ accompaniment by Robert Goodrich and trumpets adding a suggestion of urgency, came Durufle's Requiem with moving sincerity if not quite enough sustained richness of tone.

**Christopher Smith**